

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the reasons which follow.

With the final Office Action of March 24, 2009, claims 1, 6, 8-10, 13, 14 and 17-35 were pending. Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 23-35 have been rejected and claims 8, 9, 19-22 and 25 have been found allowable.

In response to the Final Action, Claims 6, 8, 9, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 26 are amended. Among those amended, claims 8, 9, 19, 21 and 25 are amended complying with the requirements of the form expressly set forth in the final Office Action while claims 6, 23 and 26 are amended to depend from claim 25. Claims 23 and 26 are further amended to reflect the form requirements similar to those applied to claims 21, 24 and 25. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments. Claims 1, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 24 and 27-35 are cancelled without prejudice. After entry of the above amendments, claims 6, 8, 9, 19-23, 25 and 26 will be pending in the application.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not on a separate sheet. The Examiner requires correction of the abstract.

In response to this requirement, a new abstract of the disclosure is being submitted on a separate sheet apart from the other text of this response. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claim 33 is objected to because there are two claims that are numbered 33. The Examiner mentions that he presumes that the claim following claim 34 reads "claim 35". Applicants agree with the Examiner's

presumption. Responsive to these objections, Applicants cancel claims 33-35, which should render the claim objections moot.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 17-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response to these rejections, claims 8, 9, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 26 have been amended complying with the Examiner's suggestions. These claims are amended, more specifically, as follows:

Claim 8 is amended to change "said detent" to --said one detent-- as well as to change "a given receiver" to --said respective given receiver--.

Claim 9 is amended to change "said retainer" to --a retainer-- and to change "a given receiver" to --a respective given receiver--.

Claim 19 is amended as follows:

- On line 2, --a case; and-- is added to provide an antecedent basis for "said case" on line 4.
- On lines 10 and 11, "a given receiver" is changed to --a respective given receiver--.
- On line 12, "said detent" is changed to --one said detent--.
- On each of lines 13 and 14; 15, 16, 17 and 18, "said detent" is changed to --said one detent--.
- On line 13, "said detent receiver" is changed to --its respective receiver--.
- On each of lines 15, 17 and 19, "said given receiver" is changed to --said respective given receiver--.

Claim 21 is amended as follows:

- On lines 10 and 11, "for engaging said first receiver aperture" is

changed to –for engaging a respective said at least one first receiver aperture--.

- On line 12, “said detent” is changed to –said at least one detent--.
- On line 12 and 13, “said first receiver aperture” is changed to –said respective said at least one first receiver aperture--.
- On each of lines 15, 17 and 19, “said first receiver aperture” is changed to –said respective said at least one first receiver aperture--.
- On each of lines 13, 17 and 19, “said detent” is changed to –said at least one detent--.

Claim 23 is amended as follows:

- On line 1, “claim 1” is changed to –claim 25--.
- On line 2, “said detent” is changed to –said at least one detent--.
- On lines 2 and 3, “said engaged receiving aperture” is changed to –said respective said at least one receiving aperture--.
- On line 3, “said detent” is changed to –said at least one detent--.

Claim 25 is amended to change “said interlocked receiving aperture” to –said at least one receiving aperture--.

Claim 26 is amended to change “claim 1” to –claims 25-- and to change “a corresponding receiving aperture” to –said respective said at least one receiving aperture--.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 9, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 26 and those claims depending from claims 19, 21 and 25 are now definite and in allowable form. Claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 27 have been canceled.

For the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 6, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Buss (US 6,349,831). Claims 10, 13 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Buss (US 6,349,831). Claims 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Buss (US 6,349,831). Claims 1, 6 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kotyuk (US 4,192,422). Claims 10, 13 and 28 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kotyuk (US 4,192,422). Claims 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kotyuk (US 4,192,422). Claims 29-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gelardi (WO 2004/037657). Claims 29 and 32-35 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gelardi (WO 2004/037657).

Responsive to the above rejections, Claims 6, 23 and 26 are amended to be dependent on claim 25 which is allowable as will be discussed in the following section of this paper. For at least that reason, claims 6, 23 and 26 are allowable. Claims 1, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 24 and 27-35 have been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102 is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 19 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and that claims 8, 9, 20, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 8, 9, 19, and 21 have been amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 19, along with claims 8, 9, and 20 depending therefrom, and claim 21, as well as claim 22 depending thereon, are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner also indicates that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Taking this suggestion, claim 25 has been rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC §112 as well as to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 24. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 25, as well as claims 6, 23 and 26 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including any excess claim fees, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 132500. If a fee is required for extension of time under CFR § 1.136 that is not accounted for above, such an extension is hereby requested and the fee should also be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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